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con- processings. Color signals C, M and Y output from the image processing section 132 are delivered respectively to a black signal generating section 133.

In the Claims:

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.121, please substitute for original claims 1, 2, 4, and 8 the following rewritten version of the same claims, as amended. The changes made are shown explicitly in the attached "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made." Further, please add new claim 12 as shown.

1. (Amended) An image processing apparatus for processing a plurality of color image signals input by reading of a color image on an original, the apparatus comprising:

conversion means for converting said plurality of color image signals to a plurality of color signals;

discrimination means for discriminating a type of the original;

first determination means for determining whether a background has a color on the original;

A2 second determination means for determining whether a background process is to be executed or not, on the basis of a determination result of the first determination means and a discrimination result of the discrimination means;

processing means for producing a background process table on the basis of the plurality of color signals converted by the conversion means; and

density adjustment means for performing density adjustment of the plural color signals input from the conversion means, on the basis of the background process table produced by the processing means, when the second determination means has determined that the color background process is to be executed.

2. (Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said conversion means, said discrimination means, said first determination means and said second determination means are operated in pre-scan, and said ~~conversion means and said density adjustment means are operated in main scan.~~

4. (Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1,
AB further comprising a histogram generating means for producing histogram data of each
of the color signals.

8. (Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1,
AU wherein said processing means produces the background process table using a minimum
background elimination value calculated from the density distribution values of the color
signals.

12. (New) An image processing apparatus to process a plurality of color
image signals input by reading of a color image on an original, the apparatus comprising:

a color converter to convert said plurality of color image signals to a
plurality of color signals;

a discrimination unit to discriminate a type of the original;

AB a first determination unit to determine whether a background has a color
on the original;

a second determination unit to determine whether a color background
process is to be executed or not, on the basis of a determination result of the first
determination unit and a discrimination result of the discrimination unit;

a processor to produce a background process table on the basis of the
plurality of color signals converted by the conversion means; and

a density adjustment unit to perform density adjustment of the plural color
signals input from the color converter, on the basis of the background process table
produced by the processor, when the second determination unit has determined that the
color background process is to be executed.